

Serial No.: 09/353,160

Attorney Docket No.: 1999P07704US

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. Canceled

2. (Currently Amended) An H.323 endpoint, comprising:

an H.323 controller configured to handle call and control signaling during a media communication with another H.323 endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another H.323 endpoint;

wherein said H.323 controller provides a communication domain identifier for address resolution during a media communication, said communication domain identifier permitting use of multiple virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper based on said communication domain identifier or permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on said communication domain identifier;

wherein said H.323 controller is configured to use said CDI to determine a domain of a called party during an address resolution phase in a gatekeeper routed signaling mode; wherein said H.323 controller is configured to use said CDI to determine a domain of one or more parties during execution of one or more domain-restricted functions.

3. (Currently Amended) An H.323 endpoint, comprising:

an H.323 controller configured to handle call and control signaling during a media communication with another H.323 endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another H.323 endpoint;

wherein said H.323 controller provides a communication domain identifier for address resolution during a media communication, said communication domain identifier permitting use of multiple virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper.

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based on said communication domain identifier or permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on said communication domain identifier;

wherein said H.323 controller provides said gatekeeper with said CDI during an address resolution phase in a gatekeeper routed signaling mode; wherein said H.323 controller is configured to use said CDI to determine a domain of one or more parties during execution of one or more domain-restricted functions.

4. (Allowed) An H.323 endpoint, comprising:

an H.323 controller configured to handle call and control signaling during a media communication with another H.323 endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another H.323 endpoint;

wherein said H.323 controller provides a communication domain identifier for address resolution during a media communication, said communication domain identifier permitting use of multiple virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper based on said communication domain identifier or permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on said communication domain identifier;

wherein said H.323 controller is configured to use said CDI to determine a domain of one or more parties during execution of one or more domain-restricted functions.

5. (Currently Amended) An H.323 endpoint, in accordance with claim 4 ~~claim 4~~, wherein said H.323 endpoint comprises a client terminal or gateway.

6. (Allowed) A communication endpoint for use in a network comprising:

a controller configured to handle call signaling during a media communication with another endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another endpoint;

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wherein said controller is configured to maintain a database for identifying multiple virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers.

7. (Allowed) A communications endpoint, for use in a network comprising: a controller configured to handle call signaling during a media communication with another endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another endpoint;

wherein said controller is configured to maintain a database for identifying multiple virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers;

wherein said controller is configured to provide an identification of said virtual domain to said gatekeeper during an address resolution phase.

8. (Allowed) A communication endpoint for use in a network comprising: a controller configured to handle call signaling during a media communication with another endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another endpoint;

wherein said controller is configured to maintain a database for identifying virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers,

wherein said controller is configured to access said database for a virtual domain identifier in a direct signaling mode.

9. (Allowed) A communications endpoint for use in a network comprising: a controller configured to handle call signaling during a media communication with another endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another endpoint;

wherein said controller is configured to maintain a database for identifying multiple virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers;

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wherein said controller is configured to provide an identification of said virtual domain during execution of one or more domain-restricted functions.

10. (Allowed) A communications endpoint, in accordance with claim 7, wherein said communications endpoint comprises a client terminal or a gateway.

11. Canceled

12. (Allowed) A telecommunications system, comprising:
a packet-switched network;
a plurality of endpoints coupled to said packet switched network;
a gatekeeper coupled to said packet switched network;
wherein predetermined numbers of said plurality of endpoints define virtual domains associated with a same gatekeeper or virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers;

wherein said endpoints include communication domain identification controllers for resolving associated virtual domains during a call setup procedure.

13. (Allowed) A telecommunications system according to claim 12, wherein said communication domain identification controllers include a database of communication domain identifiers (CDI).

14. (Allowed) A telecommunications system, comprising:
a packet-switched network;
a plurality of endpoints coupled to said packet switched network;
a gatekeeper coupled to said packet switched network;
wherein predetermined numbers of said plurality of endpoints define virtual domains associated with a same gatekeeper or virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers;

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wherein said endpoints include communication domain identification controllers for resolving associated virtual domains during a call setup procedure;

wherein said communication domain identification controllers include a database of communication domain identifiers (CDI);

wherein said communication domain identification controllers are configured to provide said CDIs to said gatekeeper during a call setup operation.

15. (Allowed) A telecommunication system according to claim 13, wherein said communication domain identification controllers are configured to use said CDIs to resolve an address of a called party during a call setup operation.

16. (Allowed) A telecommunications system, comprising:

a packet-switched network;

a plurality of endpoints coupled to said packet switched network;

a gatekeeper coupled to said packet switched network;

wherein predetermined numbers of said plurality of endpoints define virtual domains associated with a same gatekeeper or virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers;

wherein said endpoints include communication domain identification controllers for resolving associated virtual domains during execution of one or more domain-restricted functions.

17. (Allowed) A method for operating a telecommunication system having at least one gatekeeper and a plurality of endpoints, comprising:

storing a database of communication domain identifiers (CDI) in said plurality of endpoints, said CDI identifying an association of said endpoints with virtual domains associated with one of said at least one gatekeeper; and

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accessing said database to determine a CDI of a called party when a call is made.

18. (Allowed) A method according to claim 17, including providing said CDI to said gatekeeper so said gatekeeper can resolve an address of a called party.

19. (Allowed) A method according to claim 18, said storing including storing a CDI of a plurality of users with a single endpoint.

20. (Allowed) A method according to claim 17, further comprising executing one or more domain-restricted functions based on said gatekeeper or with a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers.

21. (Allowed) A method according to claim 17, wherein said CDI identifies an association of said endpoints with a virtual domain associated with multiple of said at least one gatekeepers.

22. (Allowed) A telecommunications method in a system including a plurality of endpoints and at least one gatekeeper, the method comprising:

storing a database of communication domain identifiers (CDI) in said plurality of endpoints, said CDI identifying an association of said endpoints with virtual domains associated with said at least one gatekeeper; and

accessing said database to determine a CDI of a called party when a call is made to determine if said called party is associated with a local extension.

23. (Allowed) A telecommunications endpoint, comprising:

a controller configured to handle call and control signaling during a media communication with another endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another endpoint;

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wherein said controller provides a communication domain identifier during a media communication, said communication domain identifier permitting use of multiple virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper based on said communication domain identifier or permitting use of virtual domains associated with multiple gatekeepers based on said communication domain identifier;

wherein said controller is configured to use said communication domain identifier to determine a domain of one or more parties during execution of one or more domain-restricted functions.

24. (Allowed) A communications endpoint for use in a network, comprising:
a controller configured to handle call signaling during a media communication with another endpoint via a gatekeeper or directly with another endpoint;

wherein said controller is configured to maintain a database for identifying multiple virtual domains associated with a single gatekeeper or a virtual domain associated with multiple gatekeepers;

wherein said controller is configured to provide an identification of said virtual domain for execution of one or more domain-restricted functions.